MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : അങ്ങനെ നടത്തിവരുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : സാധാരണഅങ്ങിനെയാണ്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : സാധാരണ അങ്ങിനെ നടന്നുവരാത്തസ്ഥിതി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽഎത്തീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR .P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag.Secretary to Government*): അങ്ങിനെ അല്ലാതെ ഉണ്ടോ എന്നറിഞ്ഞു കൂടാ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): The responsibilty for the prevention of damage by flood, etc.—

PRESIDENT : The member is not entitled to read out the answers that are given.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Beg your pardon Sir. ഉപ്പളത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ വന്ന ചേരുന്നതായ ശുദ്ധജലത്തെ ആറിലേക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകാനുള്ള കാലിനെ ഒരാൾ അടയ്ക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ട് ഉപ്പളങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടാകുന്ന നഷ്ടത്തിനു മറുകൃഷിക്കാർ ഉത്തരവാദികളാകുന്നതെങ്ങിനെയെന്നുപറയുമൊ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : That is a hypothetical question, which cannot be answered.

Salt Reserve.

195. **MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) :

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a reserve stock of salt is annually kept in the factory so that the salt merchants may not sell at a higher rate the salt bought from these factories? If so, how many maunds are considered necessary for that stock?

(*b*) Is the balance in excess of the quantity required for the reserve stock taken each year for use in other places?

(*c*) What is the quantity of salt produced in each factory in South Travancore during the ten years from 1091 to 1100, the quantity kept as reserve stock in each factory, and the quantity taken to other places from each factory?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) It is the policy of the department always to maintain in the factories a certain quantity of salt in reserve in order to prevent inflation of prices. The quantity is not specifically fixed for the purpose; but the department takes care to see that sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of each year is left in the factories.

(*b*) When a sufficient quantity is available for transport, it is usually transported.

(*c*) In regard to the quantities of salt produced and transported, the Member is referred to Appendix XV of the Administration Report-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of the Excise Department for those years. The total of the quantities shown under 'Sale by Government' and 'Transport to dépôts' will serve both as reserve and for sale locally on behalf of the Government.

Contracts for Opium and Ganja.

196. **MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): (1) With reference to interpellation No. 33 and the supplementary questions thereto asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd Karkatakam 1100, will the Government be pleased to furnish information on the following points —

(*a*) the quantity of opium and ganja sold from the shop at Quilon which was auctioned for Rs. 6,455 in 1097 and 1098, for Rs. 3,700 in 1099, and for Rs. 3,900 in 1100;

(*b*) the quantity of opium and ganja sold from the Trivandrum shop during the same period, and the amounts for which this shop was auctioned for the respective years;

(*c*) how it was ascertained that the auction amount for the Quilon shop during 1097 and 1098 was much higher than the demand;

(*d*) if it was known that it was much higher, how sanction was accorded for the confirmation of the auction for a still higher rate in the previous year;

(*e*) whether the policy adopted in 1099 and 1100 to sell the shop at a lesser amount than the previous years was followed in the case of other shops also;

(*f*) whether this policy relates to toddy and arrack shops also;

(*g*) whether the shops are auctioned after ascertaining the quantity sold in each shop; and

(*h*) whether there are instances in contradiction to this policy, and if so, what it is due to?

(2) (*a*) With reference to the answer to part (*c*) of question No. 33 in which it is stated that, as there was no competition, the shop fetched a rental commensurate with the consumption of opium and ganja, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is usual to reauction the shops when, for want of competition or for other reasons, the rental fetched is less than that for the previous years?

(*b*) Has any of the shops been reauctioned that year owing to reduced rental, and higher rentals obtained?

(*c*) If the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the shops so reauctioned, and the excess rentals obtained?

(*d*) Have the Government now come to know of the reasons that prevented the reauctioning of the Quilon shop in the above circumstances?

(*e*) If the answer is in the negative, will the information be supplied after enquiry?

(3) (*a*) With reference to the answer to part (*c*) of question No. 33, *viz.*, "For the 1099 contract, the latter was excluded from the auction sale since he was convicted of malpractices relating to opium and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly